

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 M-02 OPR-02 SY-04

OMB-01 CIEP-02 AID-20 PC-10 CU-05 SCCT-02 NIC-01

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /152 W

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R 111925Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7224

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5087

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: SOLANO LIMA'S RESIGNATION

REF BA 4902

1. SUMMARY. SINCE SOLANO LIMA TURNED IN HIS RESIGNATION ON JULY 1 THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONFUSION AS TO HIS MOTIVATION AND AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE WOULD REALLY LEAVE THE RECTORSHIP OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES. IT NOW APPEARS THAT LIMA INTENDS TO MAKE THE RESIGNATION STICK AND WILL LEAVE THIS POST WITHIN A MATTER OF DAYS. APPARENTLY RAUL LAGUZZI, A LEFT-WING PERONIST, WILL TAKE HIS PLACE. END SUMMARY

2. EVER SINCE SOLANO LIMA TURNED IN HIS RESIGNATIONS AS POLITICAL ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT AND RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES THERE HAS BEEN CONFUSION AS TO HIS MOTIVATION AND, MOREOVER, WHETHER HE WOULD INDEED RELINQUISH THE LATTER POSITION.

3. A SOURCE CLOSE TO SOLANO LIMA HAS NOW BEEN ABLE TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE LATTER'S RESIGNATION. APPARENTLY, LIMA SUBMITTED BOTH RESIGNATIONS ON THE MORNING OF THE DAY PERON DIED. HE DID SO BECAUSE PERON WAS NO LONGER ACTING AS
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PRESIDENT AND HE CHOSE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RETIRE - SOMETHING

HE HAD WANTED TO DO FOR SOME TIME BUT HAD NOT BECAUSE OF HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH PERON.

4. THE PUBLISHED ACCOUNT MADE IT APPEAR THAT LIMA HAD RESIGNED HALF AN HOUR BEFORE PERON DIED AND THAT IT WAS ACCEPTED TWO HOURS LATER. LIMA DID NOT LIKE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT VERSION OR THE MANNER IN WHICH THE RESIGNATIONS WERE HANDLED AND BLAMED PRESS SECRETARY EMILIO ABRAS-A LOPEZ REGA MAN.

5. THE GOA THEN APPEARED TO BACKTRACK A LITTLE AND SAID THAT ONLY THE RESIGNATION AS POLITICAL ADVISOR HAD BEEN ACCEPTED AND THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE AS RECTOR. SOLANO LIMA WAS MADE TO APPEAR TO HAVE SOFTENED SOMEWHAT BY PRESS REPORTS QUOTING HIM AS SAYING HE WOULD STAY ON TILL A NEW RECTOR WAS APPOINTED. SOURCE CLOSE TO LIMA INDICATES THESE REPORTS WERE NOT TRUE.

6. EDUCATION MINISTER TAIANA APPARENTLY IS DOING HIS UTMOST TO CONVINCE LIMA TO STAY. TAIANA PROBABLY HAS THE MOST TO LOSE BY LIMA'S RESIGNATION, AS THE LATTER WAS ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE WHO COULD KEEP THE LID ON THE UNIVERSITY AND ACTED AS A BUFFER FOR TAIANA. TAIANA HAS ASKED LIMA TO ASSURE THE DEANS THAT THERE WILL NOT BE ANY MAJOR POLICY CHANGES THIS YEAR IN ORDER TO CALM THE STUDENT AND FACULTY ACTIVISTS WHO WANT TO MAINTAIN THEIR POSITIONS. IN ANY EVENT, IF THINGS GO SOUR NOW IT COULD EASILY COST TAIANA HIS JOB.

7. IT APPEARS THAT LIMA WILL LEAVE THE RECTORSHIP WITHIN A MATTER OF DAYS. THE SOURCE, WHO DESCRIBED LIMA AS A VERY STUBBORN BUT NOT A COMBATIVE PERSON, INDICATED THAT HE WILL NOT AWAIT THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW RECTOR AND WILL PROBABLY LEAVE HIS POST WITHIN A WEEK. LIMA ALSO MAY TRAVEL TO CHILE AND EUROPE, AS REPORTED BY THE PRESS. CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS, HOWEVER, HE IS NOT MARRIED TO 30 YEAR OLD MENDOZA TOURISM DIRECTOR MUNIRA AZURA AND IS RELUCTANT TO DO SO BECAUSE OF THE 40 YEAR AGE DIFFERENCE.

8. ONE OF THE MORE BASIC REASONS WHY LIMA REFUSED TO WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION WAS TOUCHED UPON WHEN THE SOURCE WAS ASKED IF HE FELT MRS PERON REALLY WANTED TO BE PRESIDENT. HE SAID YES, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND EXPANDED BY SAYING THAT LIMA HAD EXPECTED TO BE THE CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT ON THE TICKET WITH PERON, BUT WAS BUMPED BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, MRS PERON WANTED THE NUMBER TWO SLOT AND SHE AND LOPEZ REGA CONVINCED PERON THAT SHE WAS THE BETTER CHOICE. THE SOURCE THEREFORE CONCLUDED THAT MRS PERON'S AMBITION DID NOT STOP AT THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL.

9. MORNING PRESS JULY 11 INDICATES RAUL LAGUZZI, DEAN OF

THE PHARAMCY SCHOOL WHO IS IDENTIFIED WITH THE LEFTIST PERONIST
YOUTH, WAS APPOINTED INTERIM RECTOR. SOLANO LIMA IS OFFICIALLY
"ON LEAVE" FOR THE NEXT 10 DAYS. IF LIMA'S RESIGNATION IS NOT
ACCEPTED BY THE END OF THE MONTH IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY TAKE
EFFECT.
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